

House Resolution 127 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY WINCKLER, GAYMAN, LYKAM, L. MILLER, and THEDE
1 A Resolution honoring the sesquicentennial of Temple
2 Emanuel.

3 WHEREAS, Temple Emanuel, located in Davenport, is
4 celebrating its sesquicentennial and its status as the
5 oldest Jewish congregation in Iowa; and

6 WHEREAS, by the late 1850s, approximately twelve
7 German Jewish immigrant families who lived in the city
8 of Davenport formed a cemetery association, having
9 come to America to escape religious persecution in
10 Europe; and

11 WHEREAS, most of these individuals worked in some
12 aspect of the retail industry, including clothing, dry
13 goods, and groceries and increasingly became involved
14 in community life; and

15 WHEREAS, on October 21, 1861, this Jewish community
16 gathered to form a congregation; and

17 WHEREAS, worship and the religious school were
18 conducted in various rented rooms in commercial
19 buildings in downtown Davenport; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1866, the Hebrew Congregation B'nai
21 Israel/Hall was established on the third story of the
22 building on the northeast corner of the intersection of
23 3rd and Perry Streets; and

24 WHEREAS, Temple Emanuel's initial spiritual leaders
25 were gifted teachers instead of ordained rabbis, until
26 Rabbi Isaac Fall came to the temple on March 3, 1871,
27 serving the congregation for five years; and

28 WHEREAS, the Temple was named on February 28, 1886,

1 in memory of Moses Emanuel Rothschild, who had recently
2 passed away; and

3 WHEREAS, a building located on the east side of
4 Ripley Street between 4th and 5th Streets was dedicated
5 by the congregation on March 10, 1886; and

6 WHEREAS, the congregation moved to the intersection
7 of 11th and Brady Streets in 1906; and

8 WHEREAS, fourteen rabbis served Temple Emanuel from
9 1876 until 1953, with Rabbi William Fineshriber coming
10 to serve the congregation as the first rabbi ordained
11 from the Hebrew Union College; under his leadership
12 the congregational membership rose to approximately 50
13 families; and

14 WHEREAS, the congregation continued to flourish
15 until a new building was needed and the current temple
16 was built on several acres of land on Mississippi
17 Avenue and dedicated on October 23, 1953, led by Rabbi
18 Martin J. Zion; and

19 WHEREAS, an integral partner with the Davenport
20 community, Temple Emanuel has provided impoverished
21 families with a soup kitchen and material assistance
22 so that they might work toward self-sufficiency and
23 stability; and

24 WHEREAS, the Temple Emanuel Tikkun Olam Committee
25 and its volunteers also support numerous local and
26 national aid organizations, which provide a safety net
27 for families in Davenport, feed the hungry through food
28 banks and other programs, and assist countless other
29 people in need at home and around the world; and

30 WHEREAS, Rabbi Henry J. Karp has been Temple

1 Emanuel's outstanding rabbi since 1985, and today
2 the congregation has an invested cantor, organist,
3 and office administrator who provide support for a
4 wealth of religious programs, inspirational events and
5 activities, and educational services for 150 families
6 and the community of Davenport; NOW THEREFORE,
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
8 That the House of Representatives commends and
9 congratulates Temple Emanuel on the occasion of its
10 150th anniversary; and
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the
12 House of Representatives shall prepare a copy of this
13 Resolution for presentation to Temple Emanuel as an
14 expression of the General Assembly's appreciation of
15 the temple's many outstanding works and its long-time
16 commitment to the people of Davenport with best wishes
17 for a joyful anniversary celebration.